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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/809,068	03/16/2001	Shigeru Hayakawa	000400-819	4710

7590 04/29/2002
Platon N. Mandros
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

HO, THOMAS Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/809,068

Applicant(s)

HAYAKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas Y Ho

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 and 6. 6) ☐ Other: .

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartel (U.S. Pat. No. 5,762,384).

As to claim 1, Bartel discloses a vehicle door lock comprising:

- a) a latch mechanism (11, 12) adapted to a vehicle door and latching the vehicle door to a vehicle body;
- b) an open link (22) engageable and disengageable with the latch mechanism (11, 12);
- c) a swing lever (6) connected to the open link (22);
- d) an electric driving source (8) having a gear member (36);
- e) a rotary gear member (37, 38, 39) arranged between the swing lever (6) and the electric driving source (8) to be meshed with the gear member (36) of the electric driving source (8), the rotary gear member (37, 38, 39) being directly and engagably connected to the swing lever (6).

As to claim 2, Bartel discloses a vehicle door lock wherein:

- f) the open link (22) is arranged in the same plane as the swing lever (6).

As to claims 3 and 6, Bartel discloses a vehicle door lock comprising:

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g) a housing (2) accommodating the open link (22), the swing lever (6), the electric driving source (8) and the rotary gear member (37, 38, 39) so that the swing lever (6) and the rotary gear member are rotatably supported in the housing (2).

As to claims 4 and 7-9, Bartel discloses a vehicle door lock comprising:

h) an opening lever (4) perpendicularly arranged relative to the open link (22) and rotatably supporting the open link (22);

i) an inside lever (5 or 21.2) arranged in parallel with the open link (22) and being engageable with the open link (22).

As to claims 5 and 10-16, Bartel discloses a vehicle door lock comprising:

j) a concave portion formed in the swing lever (6);

k) a pin (41) formed in the rotary gear member (37, 38, 39) and extending into the concave portion so that the pin (41) engages the concave portion by the rotation of the rotary gear member.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No.5649726 to Rogers Jr. et al. discloses a vehicle closure latch.

U.S. Pat. No.5584515 to Silye discloses a double locking vehicle door latch including multiple covers and levers mounted on a main body.

U.S. Pat. No.6142540 to Girard et al. discloses a motor vehicle door lock.

U.S. Pat. No.6102453 to Cetnar discloses a vehicle door locking system with separate power operated inner door and outer door locking mechanisms.

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U.S. Pat. No.6109674 to Bartel et al. discloses a power-actuated motor-vehicle door latch with a plastic housing.

U.S. Pat. No.4575138 to Nakamura et al. discloses a door latching device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Y. Ho whose email address is thomas.ho@uspto.gov and telephone number is (703) 305-4556. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-3691.

TYH
April 23, 2002


J. J. SWANN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600